

Br. Ex. 145

PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ON JULY 24, 1941

Excerpts.

In response to inquiries by press correspondents, the Acting Secretary made the following statement:

"It will be recalled that in 1940 the Japanese Government gave expression on several occasions to its desire that conditions of disturbance should not spread to the region of the Pacific, with special references to the Netherlands East Indies and French Indochina. This desire was expressly concurred in by many other Governments, including the Government of the United States. In statements by this Government, it was made clear that any alteration in the existing status of such areas by other than peaceful processes could not but be prejudicial to the security and peace of the entire Pacific area and that this conclusion was based on a doctrine which has universal application.

"On September 23, 1940, referring to the events then rapidly happening in the Indochina situation, the Secretary of State stated that it seemed obvious that the existing situation was being upset and that the changes were being achieved under duress. Present developments relating to Indochina provide clear indication that further changes are now being effected under duress.

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"There is no doubt as to the attitude of the Government and people of the United States toward acts of aggression carried out by use or threat of armed force. That attitude has been made abundantly clear.

"By the course which it has followed and is following in regard to Indochina, the Japanese Government is giving clear indication that it is determined to pursue an objective of expansion by force or threat of force.

"There is not apparent to the Government of the United States any valid ground upon which the Japanese Government would be warranted in occupying Indochina or establishing bases in that area as measures of self-defense.

"There is not the slightest ground for belief on the part of even the most credulous that the Governments of the United States, of Great Britain, or of the Netherlands have any territorial ambitions in Indochina or have been planning any moves which could have been regarded as threats to Japan. This Government can, therefore, only

/ conclude

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conclude that the action of Japan is undertaken because of the estimated value to Japan of bases in that region primarily for the purpose of further and more obvious movements of conquest in adjacent areas."

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Foreign Relations, pp. 315-316

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一九四一年(昭和十六年)七月二十四日 國務省發表

新聞紙掲載

(改正)

新聞通信員の間答(國務長官代理は次の如き聲明を
 發した。一九四一年(昭和十六年)に日本政府が數回に亘つて擾亂状態
 を太平洋地区特に蘭領東印度及び佛領印度支那に擴大し
 ない事を希望する。日本は此の事が相起るであらう。此の希望には
 アメリカ合衆国政府を始め多數の政府が特に賛成した。ある
 政府の聲明は平和的手段以外によつて此等地域の現状を
 変更する事は必然的に太平洋全地域の安全と平和とも害する
 事になり又此の決定は世界的に適用される主義に基きものである
 といふ事が明示されたのである。

一九四一年(昭和十六年)九月三十一日 印度支那地域に於て相次いで起
 りつゝある事件に對し國務長官は該地域に於ける現状は混亂
 しており又

又その変更は疑念を強

迫の下に達成されつゝある程に思はれると言明し、印度支那に関する
 現在の進展は強迫の下に今尚変更が行はれてゐる事を明瞭に指示
 してゐる。

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「アメリカ合衆国政府及び國民の武力の使用に武力が脅威に依り
 決行される侵略行為に對する態度は一つきりと決まつてゐるのであ
 る。その態度は既に充分明らかになつてゐるのである。

「印度支那に關して過去に於て取つた行動及現に取りつゝある行
 動は日本政府が武力に依り又は武力が脅威に依つて領土擴張の
 目的を達成しようと決つてゐる事を明示してゐるのである。

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アメリカ合衆国政府にとっては日本政府が印度支那を占領し、
自衛手段として其の地域に根拠地を造つた事をも認められ
る正しい根拠があるとは言はれない「最も軽きと物事を言ふ
人」(とアメリカ合衆国大使が米国或は和蘭政府が印度支那
に領土的野心を有したり日本を脅威すると認められる行動を
企圖してゐると言ふ)根拠は全然ないのである。それ故に吾
政府は日本の行動はその地域に於ける基地が日本に取つて特に其の
隣接地域に對する征服行動を更に進め更に顯著なる目的に
價值あるものと見做つたため取られたのであると結論を下すより他
はないのである。-----

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